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SWAFFHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the year ended December 31st, 1910.

Area of acres—7,144. Population in 1901—3,371.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council,

Gentlemen,

I have the honour of submitting my twenty-first annual report. In table 1, vital statistics, it will be seen that the total number of deaths amongst all classes and at all ages was 48 against 51 in 1909, including 12 in the Workhouse and Hospital (7 in the Workhouse were from outside the district), shewing a gross death-rate of 14.54; which taking into consideration the importation of old people into the Workhouse is a very low death rate. With regard to sex—25 were males and 23 females.

The mortality of children under 1 year was 4 as against 7 in 1909, giving a death rate of 140.00 per 1,000 calculated on the number born during the year.

One case of Phthisis was recorded. Cancer was the cause of 8 deaths, whilst 1 of the Respiratory organs was recorded.

BIRTHS. During the year 56 births have been registered, which is lower than last year by 10, when 66 were registered. This gives a birth rate of 16.96 per 1000. In respect of sex—30 were boys and 26 girls.

NOTIFICATION ACT. During the year 2 cases were reported to me under this act, namely:—1 of typhoid fever and one of scarlet fever. In each case precautions were taken to prevent the spread of the diseases. I would again suggest to the council the advisability of making measles a notifiable disease, as measles is the indirect causes of many fatal diseases to children.

THE HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES' ACT. Eleven houses unfit for habitation have been served with notices and the same have been abated.

THE FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT. I have visited most of the Factories and Workshops under this Act during the year, and have in no case found anything calling for action on my part.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS' ACT. During the year all the Dairies have been inspected by me, and found clean and in good order. One new cowshed has been built during the year which is satisfactory in every respect.

DAY SCHOOLS. I have inspected all the Day Schools periodically during the year and have when necessary reported my observations thereon to the County Medical Officer of Health.

SCAVENGING. This is done by your own men with one horse and cart for refuse and one for night soil. Disused gravel pits have been rented in which to deposit and cover up paper, &c., found amongst house refuse. Some householders have sanitary dust bins which are emptied weekly and some ash pits which are emptied every quarter. Most of the houses have pails for night soil. Four vaults have been filled up and pails substituted during the year.

DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL. A large proportion of the surface water from the yards, streets, &c., is carried by separate drains to ponds on the outskirts of the town and the Sewerage is carried by a system of sewer pipes about 4 miles in length to the Sewage farm about 2 miles from the town, and after being treated by Aluminite Ferric it flows to the beds and settles away in trenches. On the farm Lucerne and Mangolds are grown.

WATER SUPPLY. This is derived from a well 165 feet deep with an extending bore 65 feet deep where the water is pumped off the chalk to a reservoir and so distributed to the town. The supply during the year has been good both in quality and quantity.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT. During the year 150 nuisances have been dealt with and in all cases satisfactorily abated.

OVERCROWDING is very prevalent, but without building new houses is difficult to abate.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT, 1909. This Act came into force in January, 1910, and during the coming year will be carried out as far as practicable by us.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

A. W. THOMAS,

M.O.H.

